California GARDEN

Corynocarpus laevigatus

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 1974

Vol. 65 No. 5
50 CENTS

EVENTS

September 14 & 15: San Diego Bromeliad Show, Casa del Prado, Majorca Room; Saturday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

September 21: San Diego Cactus & Succulent Special Meeting with Dr. Warner Rawa from West Germany, Majorca Room, Casa del Prado; 1:00 p.m.

September 28 & 29: San Diego Bonsai "mini" Show, Casa del Prado, Majorca Room; Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 5 & 6: San Diego Orchid "mini" Show, Casa del Prado, Majorca Room 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days.

October 26 & 27: Crown Garden Club of Coronado, 15th Annual Fall Flower Show, Coronado Women's Club, 1735 Strand Way, Coronado; Saturday 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

October 27: Convair Garden Club presents their Mum & Fall Vegetable Show, Casa del Prado, Majorca Room; 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

November 2 & 3: San Diego Tropical Fish and Pond Show, Casa del Prado; Saturday 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

November 6, 7, & 8: Palomar District—Federation Landscape School, Majorca Room, Casa del Prado; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

TOURS

September 19: J. Paul Getty Museum—Malibu Beach; Depart Balboa Park at 8:00 a.m.; La Jolla Library 8:30 a.m.; PRICE $8.50.

October 19: Fall trip to Idyllwild; Depart Balboa Park at 8:00 a.m.; La Jolla Library 8:30 a.m.

SPECIALS

October 10: Violet Evans; Wreaths made from dry materials; Floral Office 10:00 a.m.

October 15: Floral Meeting honoring new members; 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Casa del Prado; Mary Lou Gaw an accomplished organist, will play your favorite requests.

October 22, 29, November 5: Adrienne Green holds her flower arrangement workshops; 1:00 p.m.

October 28: Mrs. Kirkpatrick starts her Flower Arrangement Classes; 10:00 a.m.

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN
Published Since 1909 by the SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101

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California Garden is a non-profit publication of the SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, a non-profit horticultural organization. The magazine is published bi-monthly. Manuscripts are invited. Manuscripts and illustrations submitted will be handled carefully, but we cannot assume responsibility for their safety. All opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or the San Diego Floral Association. ©1972 by San Diego Floral Association. No part of this magazine can be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor. California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association. Entered as second-class matter, Dec. 8, 1910 at the Post Office at San Diego, California under the Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: SEND FORM 3579 TO:
CALIFORNIA GARDEN, CASA DEL PRADO, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

editor's footnotes

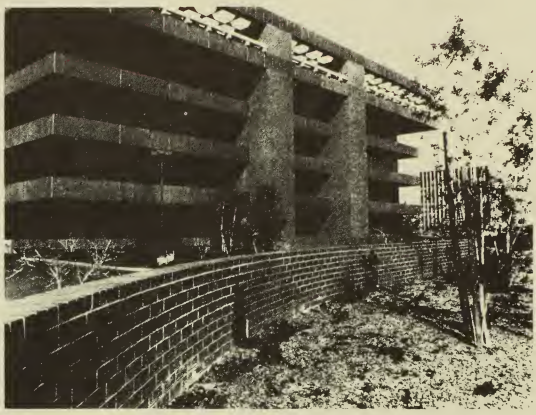
¶ This issue of California Garden concerns itself mainly with plants for pots and indoor use. There is also an interesting article on growing vegetables in containers, as well as an article on hanging those potted plants when they are used indoors.

¶ Our covers, both front and rear, are again by Alfred Hottes.

¶ Please be sure to note the inside back cover of this issue. It should be of special interest to all who would like to take advantage of some informative workshops being offered by San Diego Floral this fall.

¶ To reiterate the former Editor, James LaMaster, the date of completion of each issue depends completely on the punctuality (or lack of) of our scheduled contributors. When articles are received by the Editor later than planned, the production schedule for that issue is set back and this in turn delays its completion. We trust you will keep this in mind as you eagerly await each new issue of California Garden.

¶ With the completion of this issue, my first year as Editor is fast coming to an end. Your comments, criticisms, likes and dislikes are solicited. Please drop me a note—I would appreciate hearing from you.



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Decorating With Plants

by PAT SAMUELSON

AT LEAST 85 per cent of my lady customers walk into my shop and announce "I'd like to decorate my home with plants, but I don't have a green thumb." I assure these nice ladies that no one is ever born with a green thumb—it is all a matter of learning the correct amount of light and water for the happy house plant. My advice is usually a good amount of natural light, no overwatering and an occasional feeding.

Now to the business of choosing the accents to decorate your home in live, luscious greenery. A plant for the coffee table? Certainly! How about a *Tolmiea menziesil*, better known as a Piggy-back Plant? It is completely adaptable for hanging in macrame or just for sitting around and looking fresh and luxurious.

A low light situation calls for a variegated *Pothos* or the old family favorite Philodendrum. This was one of the very first acceptable plants which was brought cautiously into the parlour about thirty years ago.

The Bird's-nest Fern or *Asplenium nidus*, is a handsome one with its fronds all curled up and unfurling as it grows. It is easy to see how this hardy plant received its fanciful name.

Baby Tears is a recent addition to the popularity game. With its fragile look, Baby Tears fits well in cups and saucers or Grandma's old soup tureen. Its tiny petals will spill over the edges of the pot for a casual, prolific appearance.

An Aluminum plant with its variegated leaves will add sparkle to an otherwise dull corner table or "what-not shelf".

How about getting out Grandpa's old spittoon out of the attic and filling it with Kangaroo Ivy or its cousin Grape Ivy? This certainly makes a fun look for an early American family room.

I am certain we all have such containers as a cut glass sugar bowl just waiting to hold that perfect African Violet.

How about that old granite water dipper from the flea market. Hang it by the back door with small dwarf geraniums cascading from it.

Did your favorite Uncle leave you his best moustache cup? Try filling it with a tiny Artillary fern and putting it in a sunny window.

Ficus benjemina, or Weeping Fig, is handsome in a five-gallon wine keg and would make a welcome addition to any informal room.

It is exciting to bring out the old family treasures which have been gathering dust in the back closet, fill them with live green plants, and get a new look in decorating that doesn't break the family budget. □

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Deciduous Trees

by GEORGE JAMES

OFTEN TIMES GARDENERS have a reluctance to use deciduous trees in their landscape plantings. They give for their reason that deciduous trees shed their leaves every fall, creating a litter which must be raked up. Yet, evergreen trees tend to shed some leaves nearly all of the time, so raking up their litter is a steady chore.

There are reasons why the use of deciduous trees in landscaping is desirable. Deciduous trees bring contrasts into the garden, changing the overall appearance from season to season. The change in the climate between the seasons in southern California is so gradual that visible changes in our plants impress upon us the fact that the seasonal changes are occurring. In the spring, the unfurling of new leaves, and in some cases the appearance of flowers, tell us that Nature is awakening and the cycle of growth in the garden is about to start again. During the summer months the foliage of deciduous trees casts welcome shade to cool living areas or provides a suitable situation for a wide variety of plants. The impression of fall is intensified when deciduous trees begin to drop their leaves, and if the tree is one whose leaves assume attractive colors as they fall, this feeling is stronger. (The colors of the leaves of trees here in California is not as intense as those of trees in climates where temperature changes are more abrupt.) In winter, after the leaves have fallen, the garden takes on a different appearance, and the sun shines through the bare trees warming the soil and plants below. Leafless trees show, in many cases, attractive bark and pretty branch patterns which are appreciated for their individual beauty as well as for the change in the general appearance of the garden caused by the bare trees.

As a rule, deciduous trees are native to less tropical areas than ours. Not all kinds of deciduous trees do their best in our climate and soil. Several

kinds which do well in southern California are listed and described in the following paragraphs.

The Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar* species, are usually symetrical, growing to be taller than wide. They grow the best in a deep and well drained soil. The soil should be neutral, and better if slightly acid. An alkali accumulation in the soil is reflected in the tree by dead leaf edges and tips, and in more severe cases, by chlorotic foliage. Established trees should be irrigated to wet the soil deeper than the roots have developed so that the alkali salts are carried below the roots. The Sweet Gum is capable of providing a greater range of fall leaf color than any other tree which is adaptable to our soil and climate. The common Sweet Gum is *Liquidambar styraciflua*, grown from seed, and the individual trees vary in degree of fall leaf color. Some trees have leaves that change from green to brown, then fall; the leaves of others assume one or more attractive colors as they change from green to brown. Therefore, trees should be selected in the fall while the leaves are changing color to be sure to have attractive colors for your particular needs.

There are named varieties of Sweet Gums

which are produced by cuttings or grafting which can be counted on to have a good show of fall leaf color each year. *Liquidambar styraciflua 'Palo Alto'* has leaves which turn red and orange as they drop. *Liquidambar styraciflua 'Burgundy'* has leaves which turn to purple-red shades, and are said to hang on the tree longer than other varieties. *Liquidambar styraciflua 'Festival'* is a more column like tree than the others and its leaves turn to shades of red, pink, yellow, and orange. The

Liquidambar formosana is a more spreading tree than those described, more nearly evergreen, and its leaves turn shades of red as they begin to fall.

Ornamental varieties of plums such as *Prunus* species are one of the most useful and reliable deciduous trees in southern California. Their size is modest, so they can be used in many home gardens without causing overcrowding. They are hardy to any extremes in temperature found here. and can be grown in a wide range of soil. Poorly drained situations are the conditions most likely to cause trouble. There are several varieties of ornamental plums which flower in the spring before the leaves appear. The flowers vary from white to light pink in color. The foliage is deep red to bronzy-green in color. Some varieties will produce edible fruit. Garden books have charts that list all of the information on at least nine varieties of ornamental plums. These trees will benefit from pruning, just as the fruit bearing varieties of plums do. Ornamental flowering trees should be pruned after they have flowered so that all of the flowers may be enjoyed.

The European White Birch, *Betula verrucosa*, is a deciduous tree of modest size which grows best in a location that is not too warm and where the soil remains moist and cool all the time. Often north or east sides of buildings provide a suitable location. The tree is slender, the tips of the branches tend to droop, and the trunk and main branches become white as the bark matures. Often the underside of the leaves are silver color and are revealed when the wind blows, causing the tree to "sparkle". The leaves turn yellow to gold as they drop in fall.

The Maiden Hair Tree, *Ginko biloba*, is a

deciduous tree that is not too widely used. Perhaps its rather slow habit of growth is held against it and yet it has some qualities that compensate for this detriment. Its fastest growth, about three feet per year, will occur where the summer temperatures are high. Growth in our area will be about one foot per year. The tree will eventually reach a height of 35 to 50 feet in our area. It will do best in deep, well drained soil. It is quite free of pests, is not damaged by smog of levels experienced so far, and is not damaged by either the high or low temperatures experienced here. The common name Maiden Hair Tree is such because its leaves are shaped and veined like the individual leaflets on the Maiden Hair Fern. The foliage is light green in color and turns to gold before it falls from the tree. There are both male and female trees and the female bears a messy ill smelling fruit. The ones most readily available are male trees which are grown from cuttings or by grafting. Two varieties superior to all others are *Ginko biloba 'Autumn Gold'* which was selected for its intense color of fall foliage, and *Ginko biloba 'Fairmount'* which was selected because of its faster growth rate. □

Arrangements By Kirkpatrick

by Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick

Photos by PAUL RUNDE.

THIS PAGE

This arrangement features very young cattails (greenish in color) with blue *Agapanthus*, lovely blue iris with variegated *Pittosporum* in a whitish bowl on burnt cork base with a grouping of inquisitive geese to add interest.

FAR LEFT

A Kay Finch container is featured in this study plus an oversized oyster shell. The tall blossoms are head of the garden variety onions gone to seed; a branch of *Homalocladium*, three yellow roses complete this nice combination of completely unrelated materials.

LEFT

Brownish green cattails begin this arrangement, with three stems of *Papyrus alternatus*, one gladiola (yellow), a banksea blossom and *Fatshedera* leaves in a yellow bowl.

Strings and Greenery

by DIANNE LeMUNYON

Dianne is a recent art graduate from San Diego State University who is presently teaching art in Chula Vista.

PERHAPS THE GREATEST appeal of plants is that they are living and dynamic. They grow, sprout new foliage, flower, change with the seasons. They bring something of the outdoors indoors. Because they are living things, plants are more personal than most belongings. They are more like pets than fixtures. How much fresher the plants might appear if they were held in a highly decorative container reflecting a touch of the owner's personality and talent.

One of the simplest and most versatile decorating elements for personalizing your plants is string. Macrame? Not exactly! Macrame has received so much attention in recent months that many people now overlook the simple and direct approach to string. String creates texture to a tin can, pot or clay container, or can contribute complimentary colors to the room's color scheme. A combination of different kinds of string can create an exciting art object out of which your plant grows. For instance, assorted colors of thick yarn for holding hair can be purchased in any dime store and used for the creation of any number of figure or geometric designs.

Another method of decorating is to use a variety of widths to change the shape of the pot. Take a dull container like a coffee can and starting at the bottom, choose one string from a variety of thick rope, yarn, or twine and begin wrapping the container. When you have wrapped to your satisfaction, change to a different texture, color, or width of string. Soon you have a container with a new exciting shape to show off your plant. The plant not only adds to your room but the pot doubles as a message holder as you can stick pins into the heavy jute or yarn to hold little reminders.

Displaying your plants to best compliment the room and to maintain the health of your plants is important. The best displays are usually at eye level. Plant health most often calls for sunshine and fresh air near a window. The solution is a plant mobile as pictured here. Any number of small plants can be used as long as you counterbalance the pots. Yarn adheres well to plastic with the help of white glue. The best approach is to smear the bottom inch of the container with glue and wrap. Continue this process until the entire container is covered. Let the pot dry well. Then take yarn, twine, or clear fishing line as used in the picture and wrap it around the pot once so that it hits two-thirds the way up the pot and then tie a good square knot . This string encircles the pot and is not attached to the pot. The sticks can be wooden dowels, metal rods or garden sticks that have been wrapped in yarn. Cut two pieces of line, each seventeen inches long. Wrap both pieces together around the yarn stick and tie a good sturdy square knot. Now measure one inch from each end of the lines and mark the spot. Take each end and tie a square knot at the mark to the line circling the pot with one line going to each side. Repeat the entire process to connect all other pots to the mobile varying the lengths of line for interest. It is important that each side has a line attached to it for best stability.

In constructing a mobile, be sure to keep your pots at an even number on each side. All pots will weigh slightly different amounts, so some experimenting to balance the mobile will be necessary. The mobile is constructed so that when a plant gets too big, it can be removed by gently loosening the circle line around the container and lifting the pot up and out. Do this while the entire mobile is on a table or it will totter to one side causing its contents to empty onto the floor.

Remember to put a large loop onto the main yarn stick so that you can suspend the mobile from a hook attached to the ceiling. These plants will

dry out more quickly than stationary plants and therefore need to be sprayed at least once every other day or oftener depending on the weather. The loop lets you take down the mobile with relative ease and the entire mobile should be watered thoroughly at least once a week. I find this creation takes about three hours to construct but will give years of enjoyment. □

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The Panamint Daisy

by HELEN WITHAM

ON THE WESTERN slopes of the Panamint Range, separating Death Valley from Panamint Valley, grows a daisy. Until 1968, it was just another desert wildflower to be hailed with delight whenever it was encountered, both because of its rarity and because of its stunning beauty. Then, in 1968, the Panamint Daisy became the symbol of the California Native Plant Society, most of whose members, myself included, have never seen it growing. However, I have seen collected specimens in the University of California Herbarium in Berkeley and found these to be suitably impressive.

The generic name of the Panamint Daisy is *Enceliopsis*. Picture a low, short-branched perennial plant, one to two feet in height. Leaves and stems appear to be cut from luxuriously thick whitish green velvet. The leaves, three to five inches long, are crowded into a basal tuft on each branch. Huge flower heads, on leafless stalks, stand a foot or more above the tufted leaves. Each flower head is three or four inches across, with dark center and yellow rays, much like our Coastal California *Encelia*. In fact, the name *Enceliopsis* means "habitually similar to *Encelia*".

The name is a story in itself. The plant was first referred to the genus *Encelia*, then to *Enceliopsis*, then to *Helianthella*, and then again to *Enceliopsis*, where it is resting now and we hope permanently. All of these generic names may be found in the references. California Native Plant Society members throughout the state, most of whom are not botanists, have long been striving to feel at ease while saying, "*Enceliopsis argophylla* variety *grandiflora*", and now look what has happened! The "new Muna" (P.A. Munz; A Flora of Southern California) , just off the presses, has come out with our flower as *Enceliopsis covillei*—so, now it's Coville's *Enceliopsis*. Fair enough and easier to remember, F. V. Coville, for whom it was named, was a botanist of the Department of Agriculture's Biological Survey Expedition into Death Valley in 1891. His report on the botany of the valley is considered a classic study of desert vegetation. Coville collected specimens of this *Enceliopsis* at Hall Canyon and at Surprise Canyon in the Panamint Range. Here, and also in Wildrose Canyon, it grows in gullies near the mouths of the canyons on steep clay banks at 1,200 to the 4,000 foot elevation.

A planned outing or field trip should be scheduled for next spring to Death Valley with the specific purpose of viewing the Panamint Daisy in bloom. To members of the California Native Plant Society, it would be a pilgrimage to their symbol. □

Intriguing Ivy

by MARIAN VINCENT

Marian is President of the California Chapter of the American Ivy Society.

IVY, that beautiful climbing plant, the "scamp" that eludes botanic attempt to pin names on all its sports, is also the clown of the plant world that has so many varieties it could stage a fancy show all by itself.

Ivy belongs to the family *Arialiaceae* in the genus *Hedera.* There are only five species of Ivy: *Hedera helix*—English Ivy, *Hedera canariensis*—Algerian Ivy, *Hedera Nepalensis*—Nepal Ivy, *Hedera colchica*—Persian Ivy, and *Hedera rhombea*-Japanese Ivy.

We are probably more familiar with the species *Hedera helix* than with any other. Here in California we also grow *Hedera canariensis,* the Algerian or Canary Island Ivy. It is the beautiful, large leaved vine we see growing along our freeways, parkways, and in our yards. It is such a rampant grower here on the West Coast, that I was surprised to have learned that in the east, Algerian Ivy is considered most unusual and is used extensively by florists for greenery in their arrangements. Algerian Ivy, for all its size and aggressive growing habit, is unfortunately very tender and cannot be grown outdoors in cold climates. The English Ivy is much more hardy and some varieties of this species will stand considerable cold.

At present, starts of a variety of *Hedera helix*, 238th Street, is being tested in many botanical gardens to determine its resistance to the low temperatures of colder parts of the United States. This variety is a lovely heart shaped Ivy and often produces flower and fruit which others are reluctant to do. Hopefully this variety will be the eastern and northern counterpart of our beautiful Algerian Ivy.

English Ivy is the "clown" of the garden. It has well over a hundred varieties and some of them are so unusual that they scarcely look like Ivy. Outdoors, here in California, English Ivy certainly is just as much at home as its Algerian cousin. Each variety has its own special appeal. Try several kinds in their own favorite spots and you will be the envy of your neighborhood. English Ivy runs the gamut from green to variegated with leaves shaped to hearts, curlies, bird's feet, fans and just plain "odd balls" that defy description. The trick is to be able to find a nursery that carries these plants all correctly named. At present, The American Ivy Society is trying to clear up the nomenclature on all the varieties now in existence and will eventually have a clearing house where the plants will be correctly named before being released.

Hedera helix and its sports can make a collector of almost anyone. It's surprising what can be done with these characters of the plant world. Wouldn't it be interesting to try a dish garden with one of these varieties? Mix them with potted flowering plants, use sprays of Ivy leaves in your arrangements or draped with clever taste around a beautiful candle for the holiday table. With a bit of imagination the ways are endless to use these unusual plants.

Other Ivy species are less known and, for me at least, not as outstanding as the English Ivies for garden or pot subjects. Ivies will grow almost anywhere but they are partial to soil with an additive for good drainage. I use sponge rock for this purpose. They also love humidity during our hot summer months, so spray their leaves from time to time. Variegated varieties prefer a lean soil—too much fertilization of these plants causes them to lose their pretty leaf patterns. The "greenies" like to have a regular fertilization schedule and will respond with lush growth and good foliage color. Probably the two most common faults in the growing of Ivy in pots are poor drainage and not enough light.

As you try a few of the prettier small leaved varieties you will discover that the bug has bitten you and soon you'll be wishing for more and rarer varieties. We hope soon to be able to find many of these in our California nurseries all correctly named. □

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A "DO IT YOURSELF" HOUSE PLANT:

Potted Pineapple

by BARBARA JONES

FRESH PINEAPPLES—they bring to mind balmy breezes and sparkling seas. But one does not need a tropical setting to grow a pineapple. They can make great potted plants anywhere.

There are several methods to follow in starting your plant. If one method fails, try another. The step each method has in common is the first—removing the top of the pineapple and peeling and eating the remainder.

METHOD A: Cut off the leafy top leaving about two inches of the fruit attached. With a spoon remove all of the soft portion leaving the hard, tough core and the outer rind. Leave in a dry, airy place until the insides feel dry to the touch. Fill a pot with a rich, sandy soil. Make a mound in the middle and press the pineapple down so that the inside is in contact with the soil. Fill the pot with soil until only the leaves are exposed. Soak the pot (up to the rim) in water until the surface is wet. Place in a sunny spot and water sparingly until new leaves appear, then water amply when the soil feels dry to the touch.

METHOD B: Twist off the top of a pineapple with your hands, and then cut away the lower leaves exposing about an inch of "stem". Place in a narrow top jar with this stem in water. Plant when roots form in well drained soil.

METHOD C: Cut off leafy top leaving about one inch of fruit. Let dry for several days. Plant with leaves exposed in pot containing 1/3 sand, 1/3 peat moss or leaf mold, 1/3 soil.

METHOD D: Cut off top with one inch of fruit. Trim flesh away to hard tissue. Dry two to three days. Use an african violet mix for planting, leaving the pineapple leaves exposed. Place in a good light but avoid direct sunlight.

The edible pineapple is a bromeliad and it grows best in temperatures that do not go under 68°F. It should be watered from the top as it holds a water supply in the reservoirs formed by the leaves. After new leaves begin to form, it should be given a liquid fertilizer about once a month. Some growers use only sand, but by using a sand, soil, humus mixture, the plant will reach maturity in a seven to ten inch pot without transplanting.

Don't give up. It takes about two years for the plant to flower and then another six months for the fruit to ripen at the end of a sturdy stalk which will grow from the center of the clump. But, you can enjoy the pineapple as a beautiful plant all the time that it is growing.

Commercial plantings of *B. Ananus comosus* are done with ratoons (suckers) that come from the base of old fruiting stems, and with slips. Any soil is usually satisfactory as long as it is well drained. Cultivation is very light because pineapple roots are near the surface. Most commercial plantings are of the Smooth Cayenne and the Red Spanish varieties. Hawaiian plantings are usually Smooth Cayenne.

The pineapple is native to South America and was known to be cultivated by the Incas of Peru. The botanic name is from the Paraguayan Guarani Indian name 'nana' which in translation means excellent fruit. Columbus saw the pineapple in the West Indies in 1493. The natives placed pineapples or their tops near the entrances of their dwellings to indicate that strangers were welcome. The Spanish took this symbol of hospitality to Spain, the English adopted the custom, and the English Colonists who settled in America used the carved pineapple motif over doors and on gate posts to symbolize the same thing. The pineapple is still a popular decorative motif, but the meaning seems to have been lost. □

Container Grown Vegetables

by ROSALIE GARCIA

GROWING VEGETABLES in pots and raised beds is not new, but urban living has made it attractive because of lack of space and soil. A craving for fresh salads and the expensive market prices have driven non-gardeners to the pots!

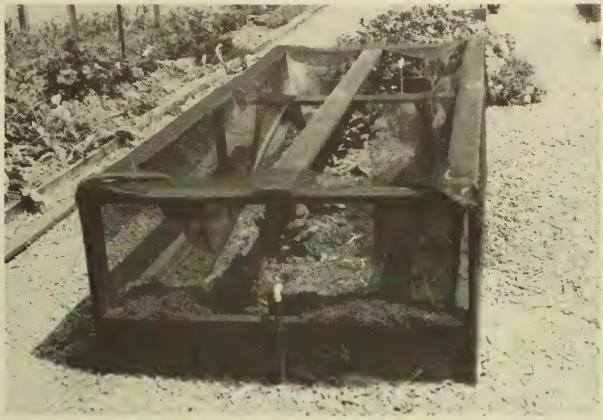
With plenty of space to grow vegetables in the earth, I have found that I get a better yield sooner from certain vegetables by planting the seeds in pots. They can be moved around to create the climate that the plant needs. I can mix the best soil for a particular plant and know it will not be washed away in watering. Fertilizing is easy (usually a liquid fish fertilizer) knowing it will last longer because it is not flushed away. Planting in a pot means I can start earlier and keep it in a warm place without subjecting the plants to replanting shock.

Noting the pots of herbs and vegetables around the house of our neighbors made me realize that they too were conscious of their water scarcity and lack of garden space, but that they were also determined to have something green to eat. Our American "nomads" who live in house trailers and move with the seasons can have fresh vegetables. While spending a few days with a friend in her trailer at Butterfield Ranch in the Anza-Borrego Desert in February I awoke one morning to find a bench next to the trailer beside us full of redwood tubs ranging in size from twelve to twenty inches full of lettuce, radishes, onions, cabbage and brocolli. I could hardly wait to get out and talk to the grower. He said they spend the winters in the desert and usually the summers in a mountain park, and he had vegetables all the year. His tubs fit exactly into the luggage rack on top of the trailer. He grew poll beans, about three to a tub, a squash, an egg plant, a pepper and whatever else they fancied. With one plant to a tub, and renewed earth at each planting (using mostly planter mix) his portable garden did fine.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (Bulletin No. 163, Minigarden for Vegetables) advises the use of synthetic soil ready mixed and sold at garden supply stores. It is light-weight, disease free, and available to those who do not have access to soil. One may mix his own by mixing to a bushel each of vermiculite and shredded peat moss, one and one-fourth cups of ground limestone (preferably dolomite), one half cup of 20 per cent superphosphate, and a cup of 5–10–5 chemical fertilizer.

I use my own mix of one half of my basic garden soil (which is sand) and one half compost. For containers I use plastic buckets and waste baskets, old pans, wood crates, a pink baby bath tub, clay pots, redwood tubs, or anything that will hold soil and deep enough for the root system of the plant. I punch holes about two inches from the bottom of the container so there is good drainage. That is most important as most plants do not like wet feet.

Seeds can be planted in the container and kept in a warm spot until the plants are up about three inches, then move them into sun to be assured of earlier production. Tomatoes, the favorite potted vegetable, need warmth and sun. Peppers and egg plants do equally well. Squashes, melons, cucumbers or any vining plants should be set on a shelf with a necklace of chicken wire around the container to keep the vines off the ground and to support the fruit. In our climate of hot days and cool, dewey nights, containers are a protection against mildew. Hanging baskets for the cherry tomatoes and the small cucumbers are most attractive in patios if there is sun at least half of the day. The Oriental egg plant with



LEFT: The cold frame

Photos by BILL GUNTHER.

BELOW LEFT: Mr. Riley caressing a watermelon.

BELOW RIGHT: Inspecting a "raised bed".

RIGHT: Overall view of garden.
MIDDLE RIGHT: Peanut blossom.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Mr. Riley inspecting the eggplant.
BOTTOM LEFT: Mrs. Riley at the compost center.
MIDDLE LEFT: Eggplant blossom.

the long slim purple fruits and pale green ovate leaves can compete with any of the non-fruiting ornamentals. The patio tomato, a small, round thin-skinned variety with deep green textured foliage, is an ornamental which yields abundantly. The dwarf fruit trees, especially the citrus, add beauty and fruit to patios when planted in large garbage cans, redwood tubs, metal or concrete containers. A trip to the junk yard can yield metal tubs from old washers, bath tubs, stoves or ovens. They are so heavy that they belong in permanent positions, being excellent for fruit trees and perennial vegetables like asparagus, artichokes, rhubarb and for the annual sun chokes which need a place they can grow tall.

The nurseries are offering ready planted beds about four feet by four feet for up to $50.00 and that seems expensive for any handy man who finds his joy in building. However, most people in newer homes find that their soil has been scraped away in the leveling process and that they only have rocky hardpan or adobe to work with in their "garden". They either have to haul in top soil, or resort to making raised beds of wood or brick. These beds can be built in different levels within a pattern, using good landscaping proportions to make a "garden room" effect. Snails and other pests find them less easily available and somehow a gardener is more likely to take care of a pot or raised bed rather than using stoop labor to care for plants on the ground.

The very successful vegetable garden pictured here is that of Robert C. Riley of Rancho Santa Fe. Mr. Riley is new to gardening, but being a building contractor by profession, he approached it from a business-like angle, assembling knowledge and making a blue print. He and Mrs. Riley took advantage of an Organic Gardening course given by the University of California Extension. Because his own soil is a thin layer of adobe, he did not want to wait until he got it built up, so he made seventeen beds, four by ten feet, using two by ten foot boards to enclose them. His first soil was sand which he brought in, then redwood shavings and sludge. In the year that he has been gardening, he has acquired his own compost pile and come to appreciate the benefits of sludge. His beds are replenished with mixtures of this combination. He installed a faucet at the end of each bed and can flood as needed. To add to the appearance and protect himself from the stickiness of adobe, he hauled in a layer of sand and spread nice earth-colored gravel over it, so it is a pleasure to walk around.

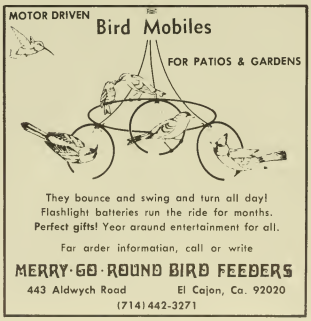
Mr. Riley plants one type of vegetable to a bed, assuring an abundance of that variety and making possible controls on water, spacing and rotation. He uses one bed as a cold frame to start plants in peat pots, keeping a continuous supply to set out. His winter vegetables are just peeking out in their little pots.

A long border bed of 100 crowns of asparagus at the back is both beautiful and productive. He uses organic gardening methods by making a spray from the asparagus tops to keep down insects, and by growing marigolds in the beds to repel insects and prevent nematodes from growing in the soil.

His variety of vegetables, so luxuriant and turgid, is a delight to see. Among those I saw were strawberries, artichokes, rhubarb, parsnips, beets, both red and gold, peppers, sweet green and yellow, squash of many varieties, cucumbers tomatoes of four varieties, peanuts and melons. After eating his vine-ripened melons, store-bought are just so much leather.

Mr. Riley is also building up the soil surrounding the raised beds with sludge and compost. In his one and one-third acre plot situated in a little hollow below the Via de la Valle Road, protection from the wind is a plus for him. The hollow does trap cold air so he must also guard against frost.

His surplus crops are donated to a Senior Citizen's project for Meals on Wheels. □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For partially shaded areas Coleus is a nice summer's delight. The multi-colored foliage adds splashes of beauty in a small container.

If you plan to pot up your own color, for beautiful results use a recommended planter mix for planting the containers. Your nurseryman can provide suggestions on planting procedures. Of course, the success of your container garden lies in regular care—daily watering in hot weather, regular feeding, removing faded blossoms and pinching back. It takes only a few minutes but is well worth the effort.

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Potted and Inside

by JIM STALSONBURG

PLANTS FOR THE HOME conjure up a myriad of very special thoughts about facets of gardening that time and space do not allow us to deal with in depth. These plants are certainly not limited to those which are more tolerant of of sparce radiant exposure, or whose tender qualities limit their existence to the warm bosom of the home. However, we shall narrow our focus for the purposes of this article to the discussion principally of those plants and their culture.

It is obvious since we are dealing in the main with plants far removed from their natural environment, that we must take up the responsibility to provide for our wards that which they cannot provide for themselves. Therefore, the planting medium, temperature, humidity, watering, feeding, light intensity, et cetera are of critical importance and reflect directly upon your ability as a gardener.

Do not let this deter you for even in failure you may have succeeded in conveying the ultimate wish—though only for a brief period. Most plants are stifled or destroyed by an overabundance of the very love that seeks to foster their well-being. Choose plants for what they are or what they will naturally become, not for what you think can be made of them. Because they are in an unnatural environment, they quite possibly may act somewhat deviant like an unruly child. A little gentle correcting or guidance would not only be permissible, but also beneficial.

When considering plants in association with living areas, space and flexibility become of prime importance. Container plantings are the most sensible approach to solving the problems of space, design and physical relationships of the home to the desired plant material.

Containers also offer the greatest range in contending with daily encounters with the basic needs of plants. Expanded latitudes for controlling the water requirements are afforded in the use of containers, even to meeting a number of adjustments for individual plants, should this be necessary.

Assistance is also given the plant by promoting a humid "microclimate". This is accomplished by "double potting". Place the plant in a pot with a drainage hole. Then put it in a watertight container a size or two larger, setting the plant on a piece of porous block or bric-a-brac. This provides a reservior for excess water to drain and be absorbed into the usually dry air of the home and into the pores of the plant leaves. Humidity is essential to house plants, because most of them are indigenous to humid jungle-like habitats. They are structured to gratify their water requirements in this manner.

The water we use here in San Diego comes to us after having travelled many miles over and through some very alkaline soils. During this travel numerous mineral compounds that are harmful to plants are dissolved and carried along in solution. If good drainage isn't provided, these elements of mostly sodium crystals will build up in the soil. When a sufficient concentration is attained, the salt crystals will deprive plants of their normal moisture intake process. Leaves will scorch along the margins as if grazed by a blowtorch. The nutrients in the soil will become chemically fixed and not available and the plants will slowly wither and decline. Container planting, especially double potting, will minimize this malady by allowing water to purge the soil and promote a healthier environment.

Containers permit a smooth succession of color from one season to another without the

feast or famine aspect encountered in a more permanent garden area. Simply replace one plant for another when the apex of its cycle has passed. Containers also provide the opportunity to exchange plants for resting periods without violating the integrity of the planting. The movement of plants to more shade or more light as might be necessitated by the changes in the light availability is likewise facilitated with the use of containers.

No, we're not just discussing containers. I am hung up on pots as a convenient means of managing the variables inherent with indoor plants. But, what kind of pot is best?

In recent years plastic pots have gained immense popularity, chiefly because they resist evaporation and allow the soil to remain moist for longer periods. Moreover, they are light and easy to handle. It is difficult to judge the water requirements in plastic pots. Superficially the plant or soil may appear to need water, but deep within the moisture level may be adequate or at the point of excess.

There is a great difference in the plastic material itself, even though the outward appearance is very similar. This could cause inequality in the absorption of heat in the root zone making one pot incompatible with the plant itself while a neighbor flourishes. Temperature fluctuation and general weathering gives rise to brittleness which results in considerable breakage when handled. Another hidden drawback is that, because of their light weight, the top growth is apt to become too heavy for the pot to support and the plant may topple over.

For me, the standard old red clay pot does the job. They are not lightweight for their size, and usually maintain good balance with top growth. They are rugged and durable. The outward appearance blends satisfactorily in any theme. They are round and most decorative containers accept them as inner pots very graciously. They are of uniform quality and material and make it easier to judge the results of applied maintenance techniques.

More importantly, clay pots have the facility to assimilate excess moisture and promote a very desirable air-water exchange along their inner surface. This is an area highly prized by young tender roots. Salt compounds are also drawn off along with the water. In total, this characteristic gives a more uniform moisture level in the root area.

If water can be drawn out of the root zone, it can thereby be drawn into that same area as well. This is of great importance when dealing with plants with a heavy moisture requirement. Here is where the double potting method comes into play.

Clay pots tend to look a bit tacky in time (as the salt builds up), but the surface can be wirebrushed to restore a neat appearance. They do chip relatively easy, but decorative pots will hide those blemishes. The chore of cleaning before reuse is undoubtedly a distasteful chore at best, but the success you will have with your plant growing more than offsets this chore. □

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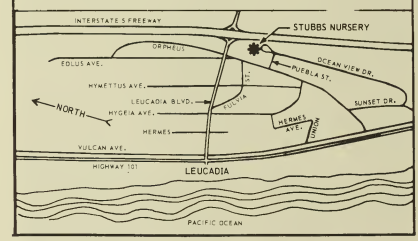

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DECORATIONS: With Seeds and Pods

by SKIPPER COPE

PLANNING YOUR HOLIDAY decorations in fall is too early you say! Not so. This is absolutely the best time for the planning stages if your decorations are to include natural items such as cones and seeds and pods. Now is the time to begin collecting these items for drying or painting or storage for when you do begin the actual assembly. Decorations made of cones, seeds, pods, fruit pits and nuts can add color and gaity all over the house, inside and out. It is best to use a stryrofoam base for indoor pieces and let your imagination take wing. Styrofoam is not durable outside, so use wire or hardwood bases for pieces that will be exposed to the elements. Copy the examples pictured here or better yet, try your own ideas. □

This is a tree of pinecones, fruitpits, nuts and pods and then sprayed with lacquer. It's so easy! This piece was made by a young lady eleven years old.

Photos by BILL GUNTHER

A shallow tree shaped wicker tray, painted gold, filled with tiny natural cones and red berries, makes a bright touch on a coffee table.

A half-circle arrangement is perfect for a side board, console or hall table. Red candles in low brass candle sticks add height to the gold cones and colored balls.

Large wreath of cones and pods sprayed gold and trimmed with tiny artificial fruits. Lay flat, add candles and you have a beautiful and durable centerpiece for any Holiday table.

A tree made of unripened cones gilded and trimmed with artificial fruit.

leafin' thru

ROSALIE GARCIA

A MANUAL OF HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING by Francis C. Coulter, Dover Publications, Inc. 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y. 10014; $2.50.

This book is a thorough, well-organized reference for the person who is in a hurry. It covers lay out of planting from cold frame to sowing in the soil, cultivation (but not much on watering), and harvest. It lists nearly all the vegetables one would choose to grow, describing the culture of each. Herbs and weeds are included, as well as a discussion of diseases and insects to guard against.

25 VEGETABLES ANYONE CAN GROW by Ann Roe Robbins, Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y. 10014; $2.00.

Since growing vegetables is now fashionable as well as practical, the market is flooded with books on how to grow them. This one limits itself to 25 which are among the staples. It takes for granted that one is a beginner and does not even know how to select a spot and prepare the soil, and that aspect of the book should appeal to some. Its basic format is to include food value, culture, habits of growth, types and varieties, how much to buy in seeds or plants, planting, when and how, where, and soil cultivation, care, harvesting, storing, canning and uses of each of the 25 vegetables. Obviously, the book will be very helpful to the beginning gardener.

COMPLETE GUIDE TO HOME CANNING, PRESERVING AND FREEZING by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Dover Publications, 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y. 10014; $2.50.

This book is what it says—a complete guide to preserving food at home. Full of practical receipes and explicit directions on how to can in glass, tin cans, with pressure cookers, water baths or by open kettle, this guide to the preservation of food at home is a valuable addition to any library.

KNOW YOUR POISON PLANTS by Wilma R. James, Naturegraph Publishers, Healdsburg, CA. 95448; $2.50.

Seventy-five common plants which are poisonous, many of which are in every garden, are listed, illustrated, and symptoms of their effect on humans are described. Some people may be surprised to know that such common plants as oleander, poinsettia, holly and daffodils are on the list. Antidotes and directions on what to do if poison symptoms are suspected are also spelled out.

FRUITS FOR THE HOME GARDEN by U. P. Hedrick, Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, N.Y. 10014; $2.50.

This is a paperback with beautiful plates and much knowledge gained by over thirty years of experimenting at the Geneva, New York State Experiment Station. Apples, pears, peaches and cherries to berries, and grapes are included. Most of the varieties developed would not be of much use to southern California gardeners, but the advice, methods and reasons for pruning could be well worth the price of the book.

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–A Cultural Calendar of Care from our Affiliates–

BROMELIADS

ALLEN GROVES

- ✓ to continue summer care when maximum growth is occurring.
- ✓ to check for scale and treat if necessary.
- ✓ to feed roots and foliage with one-half strength balanced fertilizer.
- ✓ to remove off-sets for trading and gifts.
- ✓ to maintain snail control program.

CACTUS & SUCCULENTS

SOCIETY MEMBERS

- ✓ to fertilize once more with a low nitrogen food for aiding the hardening process of the summer-formed tissues.
- ✓ to repot rootbound plants (last chance to do so).
- ✓ to keep moisture level fairly high if Santa Ana winds occur, otherwise start hardening plants for winter.
- ✓ to use pre-emergent herbicides against winter weeds sprouting.

CAMELLIAS

SHALA McNEIL

- ✓ to feed with cotton seed meal lightly or use a liquid fish product—be sure to water thoroughly the day before and water the cotton seed meal into the soil.
- ✓ to deep water plants once a week.
- ✓ to spray or fog plants in evening when weather during the day has been hot—keep moist but not soggy.
- ✓ to start "gibbing" hybrids and reticulatas about the first of September.

DAHLIAS

MILDRED MIDDLETON

- ✓ to feed with potash only to promote root growth—helps them to keep better during winter.
- ✓ to spray to prevent mildew and spider mites.
- ✓ to maintain regular watering until first of October, then cut down gradually.

EPIPHYLLUMS

WILLIAM NELSON

- ✓ to overhaul your plants—trim out old wood and take cuttings in September (although July & August are better months).
- ✓ to keep plants clean and free of insects.
- ✓ to start hardening of plants by withholding water (if weather is hot, spray for moisture).
- ✓ to start watering and feeding Christmas cactus.

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FUCHSIAS & SHADE PLANTS

WILLIAM SELBY

✓ to continue watering, fertilizing, and insect control.

✓ to mist or fog foliage if weather is hot; do so in the coolest part of the day; be careful NOT to overwater. (More plants are lost from "overwatering". Plants like to be moist, but NOT wet.)

✓ to keep seed pods picked off, trim long growth and pinch lightly to keep plants blooming through Christmas.

✓ to use "trimmings" for cuttings; in southern California, cuttings can be started at any time.

✓ to prepare for propagating and growing new Fuchsias (make a rooting box with clean sharp sand, sponge rock, or other similar vermiculite products).

✓ to continue insect control (inch worms, white fly, mites, and aphids); use malathion, lindane, cygon-E etc., reducing recommended amounts by about half strenght to prevent burning tender growth.

GERANIUMS

PHILIP BUSH

✓ to take cuttings—keep in light shade until rooted.

✓ to fertilize plants with high nitrogen fertilizer—fish, 10—5—5, or others.

✓ to clean up old plants.

✓ to clear off old leaves, dead flowers, from under plants; trim plants and shape up.

✓ to spray soil and under leaves with cygon-E for white fly and aphids; might aid in worm control also.

IRIS

ART DAY

✓ to plant beardless iris—Spurias, Siberians, Louisianas, and Japanese. (Select a location where they can remain undisturbed for several years—after planting, keep moist until established.)

✓ to divide old clumps of bearded iris. (Retain only those good firm rhizomes with good fans and roots; the old "mother" plants will not bloom again. Trim the fans and roots half-way before setting out. Outer leaves will die back—this is normal.

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ORCHIDS

LOIS DONAHUE

- ✓ to spray and mist, especially when the Santa Ana winds arrive.
- ✓ to begin low-nitrogen, high phosphate and high potash feeding for cymbidiums.
- ✓ to have a good control program for chewing and sucking pests.
- ✓ to feed phalaenopsis a 3—1—2 solution.
- ✓ to keep "phals" damp as they have no storage tanks.
- ✓ to watch carefully that the "phals" do not sunburn with too high a light intensity.

ROSES

DEE THORSON

- ✓ to feed roses with a fertilizer containing trace elements; also give an application of iron sulphate.
- ✓ to continue deep irrigation of rose beds. (Overhead watering when hot, dry weather prevails is greatly appreciated by the plants.)
- ✓ to continue spray program to eradicate garden pests.
- ✓ to moderately prune bushed roses for better fall bloom.
- ✓ to continue preventative spraying for mildew.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

- ✓ to prepare bulb beds.
- ✓ to plant iceland poppies, violas, gerberas, and winter sweet peas.
- ✓ to dust and stake chrysanthemums, but don't pinch back any more this year.
- ✓ to fertilize chrysanthemums until bud shows color.

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Office Phone Number—232-5762.
Third Tuesday, Casa del Prado.
Pres: Mrs. Colin Macdonald—298-9283
3933 St. James Place, S. . 92103

FLOWER ARRANGERS' GUILD OF S.D.
First Thurs.,Casa del Prado, 9:00 a.m.
Pres: Mrs. James Ard—276-6398
3031 Karnes Way, S.D. 92117

PLEASE NOTE: This Club Directory is published as a service to our readers as well as the clubs listed. Member Clubs will be listed every issue of the magazine. All other clubs will be listed in the November-December issue only. Corrections, changes, additions or deletions should be addressed to the attention of the EDITOR, c/o San Diego Floral Association, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, 92101.

MEMBER CLUBS

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, Second Tues., Homes of members, 10:30 a.m.
Pres: Mrs. Katherine Weaver—488-3969
5355 Alta Bahia Ct. S.D. 92109

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB
First Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Frank Bornemann—466-5525
4618 Edenvale Avenue., L.M. 92041

COUNTY CIVIC GARDEN CLUB
Every Tues., 12-1:00 p.m., Garden House, Grape and 101 Civic Center
Director: James Saracino—239-9511
1600 Pacific Highway, S.D. 92101

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER NUMBER 119, Fourth Wed., Casa del Prado 10:00 a.m.
Pres: Mrs. B. Donald Gaw—485-0116
13818 Tam O'Shanter Ct. Poway 92064

FLEUR DE LEAGUE
Second Mon., Homes of members, 10:30 a.m.
Pres: Mrs. Stephen Kew—223-6875
3714 Dudley Street, S.D. 92106

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
First Tues., 1:00 p.m., St. James Hall, 7776 Eads Avenue., La Jolla
Pres: Mrs. James M. Daly—454-0871
822 Havenhurst Point, L.J. 92037

LAS JARDINERAS
Third Mon., 10:00 a.m., Homes of members
Pres: Mrs. Edwin Balmer—454-5851
7720 Sierra Mar Dr., L.J. 92037

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF S.D. CO.
Fourth Thurs., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres Mr. M.L. Barksdale—222-2884
3756 Milan Street, S.D. 92107

ORGAINC GARDEN CLUB
Third Fri., Casa del Prado, 7:30p.m.
Pres: Fred Nimtz—479-7585
3815 Valley Vista Road, Bonita 92002

PALOMAR DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Director: Mrs. Roy K. Jones II—222-9737
3971 Del Mar Ave., S.D. 92107

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Second Wed., S.D. Federal, Rosecrans and Canon, 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. L. L. Cottingham—222-4616
735 Cordova Street., S.D. 92107

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Fourth Tues., San Carlos Club, 6955 Golfcrest Drive
Pres: Mrs. R. Matthews—286-0753
8095 El Extenso Ct., S.D. 92119

SAN DIEGO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.
Second Sun., Casa del Prado, 1-5:00 p.m.
Pres: Dr. Herbert Markowitz—224-8552
876 Armada Terrace, S.D. 92106

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC.
Second Thurs., Casa del Prado
Pres: John Farleigh—295-5404
2217 Whitman St., S.D. 92103

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY, 2nd Sat., Casa del Prado, 1:30 p.m.
Pres: Joseph Bibbey—423-5133
490 Citrus Ave., Imperial Beach 92032

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Third Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Capt. Ben H. Berry—435-2562
471 Country Club Lane, Coronado 92118

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, Fourth Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Earl Galloway—282-0388
4365 Alder Dr., S.D. 92116

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Fourth Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Abe Janzen—277-4473
3521 Belford Street, S.D. 92111

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
First Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Mr. Rex Foster—466-0605
2645 Massachusetts Ave., Lemon Grove 92045

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Second Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Mr. Donald Irwin—469-2469
4124 N. Rogers Road, Spring Valley 92077

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY
Sec. Mon., Casa del Prado, 8:00 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Frank Calamari—232-8232
2867 "G" Street, S.D. 92102

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Sec. Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Wm. Cavanaugh—224-9208
4377 Loma Riviera Ct., S.D. 92110

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY, Third Sun., Casa del Prado, I:30 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Eugene Cooper—295-7938
4444 Arista Drive, S.D. 92103

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Third Mon., Casa del Prado, 8:00 p.m.
Pres: Mrs. Allen P. Sears—461-6408
1510 La Corta, Lemon Grove 92045

SAN DIEGO TROPICAL FISH SOCIETY
Sec. Sun., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Pres: William McColl—271-0731
8613 Bennington St., S.D. 92117

SOUTHWESTERN GROUP, JUDGES' COUNCIL CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
First Wed., Casa del Prado, 10:30 a.m.
Pres: Mrs. Jose Garcia—264-4167
319 South 39th Street., S.D. 92113

454-0404

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SKIPPER COPE's

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•• When water runs off of potted plants and they are not able to absorb a sufficient amount, place a small container with small holes punched in the bottom in the soil and fill with water so that the water is able to slowly seep through the entire pot.

LOIS DONAHUE

•• To recondition clay pots, soak in a solution of one part muriatic acid to four parts water. Brush if necessary and rinse thoroughly in clean water.

BARBARA JONES

•• To protect your plants from all those white flies (there are several varieties and they are resistant to nearly all pesticides) use Tincture of green soap, one tablespoon to a gallon of water, and spray regularly. Polytrap is also effective.

•• To waterproof and preserve Mexican clay pots and wood containers, spray inside with tree seal before planting. Wood container can be sprayed with Wood-Life as well.

SKIPPER

Unseasonal Planting

Thanks to modern technology most plants can be planted almost any time through the year. Trees, shrubs, plants, bushes—most varieties are available at most garden centers in *containers*, and that means a new kind of flexibility for the home gardener.

The American Association of Nurserymen, spokesman for the nation's nursery growers, garden center and landscape firms, reports that the availability of containerized plants is widespread, and offers several advantages. At most garden centers, plants growing in containers cost no more than those balled in burlap.

Perhaps the greatest asset derived from the purchase of container growing trees or plants is the fact that they can be planted in most parts of the country just about anytime of the year when the ground is not frozen. But, according to the AAN, there are additional bonuses.

Container-grown plants assure the presence of the entire root system, important for successful growth. There is usually less "mess" and greater ease in the planting. Some plants purchased when they are in bloom can be held in the house or outdoors for some time before planting, permitting the home gardener to do his part of the job at his own discretion.

A recent innovation is the production of bio-degradable containers, to permit the planting of the total material—plant and container —together.

The professionals who operate the nation's garden centers, their national association says, are in the best position to recommend the right time to purchase containerized plants. The home gardener should know that the process is available, and welcome its advantages when they meet his need.

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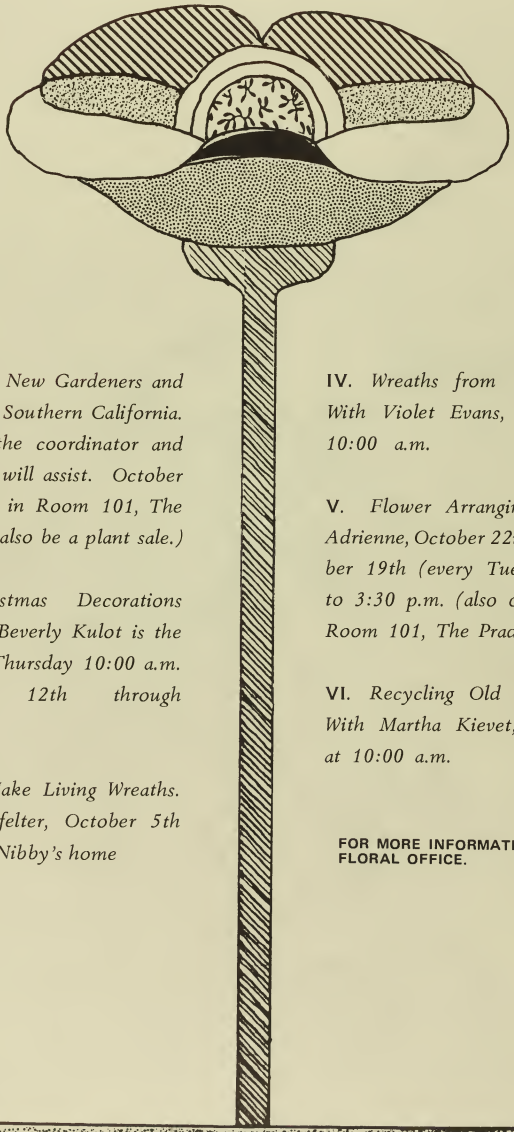
FLORAL WORKSHOPS



I. *Workshop for New Gardeners and Gardeners New to Southern California. George James is the coordinator and Miss Jane Minshall will assist. October 29th at 7:00 p.m. in Room 101, The Prado. (There will also be a plant sale.)*

II. *Making Christmas Decorations featuring Angels. Beverly Kulot is the chairman. Every Thursday 10:00 a.m. from September 12th through October 3rd*

III. *Learning to Make Living Wreaths. With Nibby Klinefelter, October 5th at 10:00 a.m., at Nibby's home*

IV. *Wreaths from Dried Materials. With Violet Evans, October 10th, at 10:00 a.m.*

V. *Flower Arranging Classes. With Adrienne, October 22nd through November 19th (every Tuesday), from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. (also on December 3rd), Room 101, The Prado.*

VI. *Recycling Old Christmas Cards, With Martha Kievet, September 19th at 10:00 a.m.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE FLORAL OFFICE.

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN
San Diego Floral Association
Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101

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